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(54) **Electronic circuit apparatus employing small disk drive with reconfigurable interface**

(57) An electronic circuit apparatus is provided for electronic circuits and devices, comprising a component disk drive, a disk controller, and a programmable interface for dynamically adapting the component drive to an external application. The interface is programmed by the disk controller using one of a library of microcode sets stored on the component drive. Alternatively, a microprocessor independent of the disk controller programs the interface from microcode stored in solid state memory. In an alternative embodiment, the apparatus further comprises an application circuit and the programmable interface adapts the component drive for use by the circuit. In another embodiment, the apparatus comprises a subcircuit that communicates with an external application over a predetermined bus architecture, and the programmable interface adapts the subcircuit for such communication.

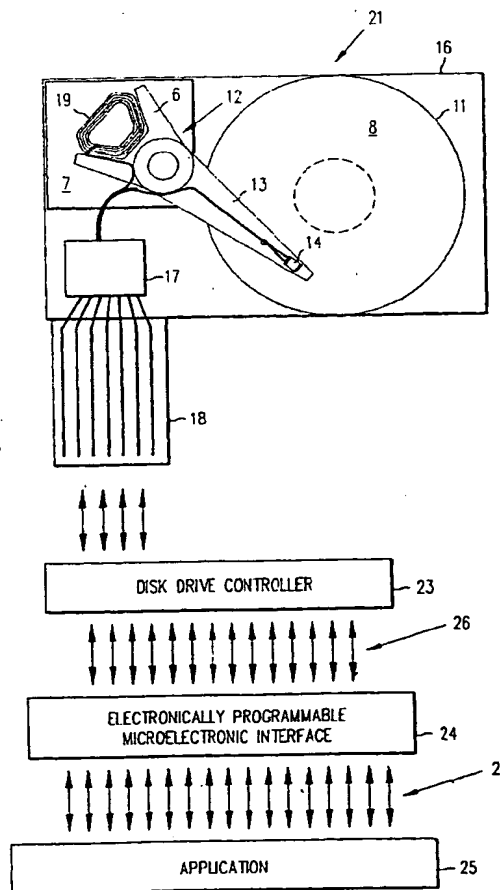


FIG. 1a

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# EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 95 30 9160

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
D,X	US-A-5 121 342 (SZYMBORSKI ROBERT C ET AL) 9 June 1992 * column 2, line 23 - line 41; figure 2A *	1,4	G06F3/06
A	EP-A-0 185 098 (HITACHI LTD) 25 June 1986 * page 1, paragraph 2 - page 9, paragraph 1; figure 2 *	1-15	
A	WO-A-94 29852 (MAXTOR CORP) 22 December 1994 * page 17, line 1 - page 19, paragraph 2; figures 8,9 *	1-15	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			G06F
Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
THE HAGUE		5 December 1996	Moens, R
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
<p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone  Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category  A : technological background  O : non-written disclosure  P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention  E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date  D : document cited in the application  L : document cited for other reasons  &amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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